



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-321 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Members: Aaron Goode, James O'Connell

Excused: William Wynn, James Bhandary-Alexander

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

Join the Meeting from anywhere using Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85112166625>

Meeting ID: 851 1216 6625

AGENDA:

1. Meeting called to order at 6:22pm
2. The audio postings for previous meetings are posted, the minutes have yet to be voted on. Goode was travelling and attending the Zoom call from an area with shaky connectivity. As a result the chair moved this item to later in the evening, but we were unable to stay at quorum for the duration.
3. There was no Public Comment.
4. Report from the Chair
 - a. Correspondence - Official correspondence from the City Clerks office was received showing the corrected (amended) termination for the KDB Exploratory committee. This document now shows the movement of the overage funds to the campaign account. It is anticipated that the July 10 Filing for the campaign committee will show an immediate transfer of these funds into Escrow, as determined to maintain compliance by the Fund and the SEEC.
 - i. Official notice of a complaint from the SEEC - the complainant is questioning the exact date of announcement for DuBois-Walton's candidacy for mayor, which could have compliance ramifications if the committee was faulted.

- ii. What constitutes an official complaint - The administrator received a string of email communication that amounted to a potential complaint, but it was not appropriately formatted or submitted following the process outlined in our regulations. The Board would review a complaint should the complainant file their claim appropriately.

5. Administrator's Report

- a. State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) pending cases
 - i. Should the complaint be dismissed, it would not impact the Fund
 - ii. If a fault is found, but it is possible for a candidate to return to a state of compliance, the fund would resume allocations once the campaign was back in compliance.
 - iii. If a fault is found that is irreconcilable or results in a fine, suspension of the campaign, individual bans on working as a treasurer on future committees, etc., the Democracy Fund would cease allocations and request a return of any unspent monies.
- b. Vote on Grant Disbursement approval. Approved 3-0-0.
 - \$20,000 to Elicker for Mayor
 - \$20,000 to KDW 2021
- c. Ordinance Review Sub-Committee - James Bhandary-Alexander was on vacation, but has communicated with the Chair about the goals and possibilities for language changes in various passages including definitions, amounts, and activity descriptions,
- d. Other Municipal Elections Updates
 - Candidate Committees: Karen Dubois-Walton, Justin Elicker, Mayce Torres
 - Exploratory Committees: Elena Grewal

6. New Business

- 1. Internship - Administrator Heimer has received interest from Quinnipiac Law students wishing to work (stipend?) during the winter break of 2021-2022 on ordinance review for either pay or credit. When Bhandary-Alexander is at the next meeting, the Board will discuss this option further as well as see if he has any personal connections.
- 2. Financial update - Budget was passed with the Democracy Fund line item approved at \$200,000.

Motion to adjourn made by OConnell. 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned 7:13